

# ***Bombers Kept Busy Denying Weiss Is on His Way Out***

**By LOUIS EFFRAT**

To Dan Topping, co-owner of the New York Yankees, the report that George Martin Weiss shortly will step down as the general manager of the club, is the "damndest story I ever read." Topping, who could not be reached Tuesday, yesterday interrupted a brief vacation, rushed back from Southampton, L. I., and made himself available for an interview.

Like all the other members of the New York organization whose names had been mentioned in what was described as an impending shake-up in the front office, Topping denied the report.

"At first, when I saw the story yesterday, I thought it was funny," he said. "Today, having read further, I don't think it's so funny. In fact, I'm mad. That's why I thought I'd better rush back.

"I haven't discussed 1961 with anyone. What's more, I haven't talked with George [Weiss] about his future in the past ten years. The report is not fair to the people in our own organization. They have worked hard and if any changes are going to be made, I'll tell the members of the staff myself. I don't want them reading about it in the newspapers."

## **Report Labeled 'Gossip'**

Along with other high officials of the club, Weiss devoted several hours yesterday to saying the report was not true.

Despite the pressure of the forthcoming world series, ticket allotments, etc., Weiss took time out to discuss what he labeled "gossip." It had been reported that the 66-year-old Weiss was to move into an advisory capacity and that Roy Hamey, Jack White and Arthur E. (Red) Patterson would run the outfit under Topping and Del Webb, the co-owners.

"It's a rumor," Weiss said in his office in the Squibb Building on Fifth Avenue. "It isn't true. If there is to be a change, I'm not a party to it.

"I can't understand all the excitement. Naturally, when you get to my age, you're looking forward to the time when you don't have to worry about double-headers, rainy days, etc. But I have a contract, which has four or five years to run, and I intend to live up to my contract."

## **One Question Dodged**

Weiss was asked whether the subject had come up recently and been discussed with Topping and Webb.

"Even if it had come up and been discussed I wouldn't talk about it now," he said.

What about the triumvirate of Hamey (Weiss' assistant), White (the general manager of the Yankees' Richmond farm in the International League) and Patterson (public relations and promotion chief of the Los Angeles Dodgers and formerly with the Yankees)?

"No mention of any such plans has been made to me," Weiss said.

"I don't know how the owners feel," said baseball's most successful front-office boss, a position he took over from Larry MacPhail after the 1947 season. "And the situation could change, but right now I repeat: 'It's a rumor. It isn't true.'"

Incidentally, Weiss is said to receive \$75,000 a year from the Yankees.

Hamey, 58-year-old aide to Weiss and formerly a general manager at Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, also denied the report. "Nothing has been said to me, I know nothing about it and, furthermore, it's most embarrassing to me," he said.

Still another denial was forthcoming. That one was from Robert O. (Bob) Fishel, who is in charge of the Yankees' public relations. It had been reported that with the return of Patterson, Fishel would head for Detroit to serve under Bill DeWitt, the general manager of the Tigers.